

First missionaries to Belarus lay groundwork

By Mike Creswell

MINSK, Belarus (BP) — A huge statue of Lenin still towers over downtown Minsk, but communism casts fewer shadows over this part of the former Soviet empire.

Lenin Square has become Independence Square. And in this city of 1.7 million people — one of communism's birthplaces — Southern Baptist missionaries now serve.

Dan and Libby Panter, of Pascagoula and Pearl, Miss., respectively, worked in the African nation of Togo 14 years before transferring last year to Minsk. They are Southern Baptists' first career missionaries in Belarus (also called Belorussia, Byelorussia, and White Russia), the formerly communist land between Poland and Russia. Belarus is part of the fledgling Commonwealth of Independent States, the loose confederation of some former Soviet republics.

The Panters join more than a dozen missionary couples who have moved into Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, many of them transfers from other fields. The two have spent much of the past year learning Russian, their third foreign language, and learning to live in a society with a faltering economy. Their specific ministry will be determined later in cooperation with the national Baptist union.

"We see our ministry as working hand in hand with Baptist leaders here in Belarus in evangelism and church planting," Panter said.

Mrs. Panter hopes to teach English as a way to make contacts with people. "I'm going to have these Belarusians speaking English with a Mississippi accent," she declared with a laugh.

After their initial shock, Belarusian Baptists are very welcoming, the Panters quickly point out. But their initial reactions are understandable. Five years ago a visit by an American almost certainly would have led to questioning by the police, perhaps even a jail sentence. A casual conversation in the street could have led to losing one's job or other problems.

Even today, Baptists talking to the Panters remain highly selective in what they will discuss by telephone. And they prefer to avoid discussing anything sensitive on visits to the Panter home, still fearing the modest two-bedroom apartment may be bugged.

"These people are hungry spiritually," Mrs. Panter said. "They have been so squelched. They were not allowed to say a word about God."

So far the hardest part of serving in Belarus for the Panters has been sending their three children back to the United States. Traci, 20, is a college student and would be away from home anyway. But Katherine, 17, and Michael, 15, are staying with Mrs. Panter's parents in Florence, Miss., to attend high school there.

Despite such hardships, the Panters feel they are where God wants them.

Belarussian Baptists never thought they would have missionaries from the United States among them. The Panters never thought they would be able to work there. All agree their very presence is a miracle and they intend to make the most of it.

Europe correspondent Creswell recently returned from a visit to Russia and neighboring Belarus.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

Thursday, August 13, 1992



Southern Baptist missionary Libby Panter makes a purchase in a Belarusian market. The Panters are often bewildered as they shop in stores where customers face skyrocketing prices for goods — if any goods are available. Inflation reportedly runs 20% per

month. But the Panters have it better than most; a person with U. S. dollars can live well for now because of favorable exchange rates. The Panters call it "Twilight Zone" economics. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

For the Panters, shopping is "Twilight Zone" time

MINSK, Belarus (BP) — When Southern Baptist missionaries Dan and Libby Panter go to market, it's like visiting a financial "Twilight Zone."

Before walking to one of two nearby shopping complexes, Mrs. Panter first checks her ration coupons. This year common foodstuffs like sugar, flour, macaroni, butter, oil, cereal, rice, washing powder, and soap are strictly rationed.

Each person — including the two Mississippians, who arrived in the former Soviet republic last year — is allotted one bar of soap and one box of washing detergent every three months. Men get two undershirts per year.

Milk may or may not be available today; if it is, you take a container to bring it home in. Meat is in short supply and expensive if you can find it.

But "expensive" is a relative term these days. For Belarusians, prices have been skyrocketing.

The average worker earns about 2,000 rubles a month. A pair of tennis shoes can cost 1,600 rubles — virtually an entire month's wages. A pair of women's dress shoes costs between 1,300 and 2,100 rubles. Sausage, the most common meat product, has gone

from 8 rubles per kilogram (about 2.2 pounds) to 324. Cheese that cost 5 rubles a kilogram nine months ago now costs 77. Butter has gone from 3 rubles a kilogram to 40, sugar from 6 to 40.

A Russian-made clunker of a car cost 30,000 rubles a year ago. Now the same clunker costs 500,000.

Inflation reportedly runs 20%. Yet prices in Belarus are much lower than in neighboring Russia. The ration cards keep outsiders from cashing in on the lower prices of goods in Belarus.

But here's another "Twilight Zone" aspect: The rapid increases in ruble prices have been accompanied by a sharp fall in the exchange rate of the Russian ruble to the American dollar. In February 1991 \$1 could obtain 5.4 Russian rubles. In June 1992 \$1 purchased 120 Russian rubles. For now, a person with dollars can live well — at least within the limitations of a tottering economy in which there is often little to buy at any price.

For a person with dollars, a 6-ruble ice cream cone costs less than 6 cents. A steak dinner in the best restaurant in Minsk costs about \$2. A subway ride costs 1 cent. A 10-hour train ride from Minsk to Moscow, complete with

private cabin with beds and hot tea, costs under \$5.

It is "Twilight Zone" economics. Shopping doesn't seem real.

At a grocery store near the Panter apartment, shoppers stand in long lines to buy eggs, milk, or meat. Some purchases require standing in line three times — first to order an item, then to pay for it, and again to pick it up. Several central aisles were filled only with large glass jars of watered-down fruit juice; few shoppers were buying them.

At the largest food market in Minsk, a few blocks from the Panter home, vendors sell their wares in small stalls, somewhat like an American farmer's market. The individual sellers charge more because they raised many of the fruits and vegetables themselves. Prices are higher but at least there are things to buy.

Sprinkled liberally throughout the city are "kiosks" — small stands selling a variety of products through a small cashier's window. Some specialize in newspapers; others in makeup or food products. Others seem to sell whatever the owner is able to assemble.

In one kiosk where Libby Panter found two cans of imported pineapple, the vendor offered a

haphazard collection: four balls of yarn, several bottles of liquor, juices, cosmetics, two chandeliers, several pairs of shoes, a few watches and calculators — and a few cans of pineapple.

Even with money in hand, finding what you want to buy becomes a major adventure. Stop to look at a display and soon several other shoppers will crowd up close behind you. Perhaps you have found something worth buying, and they don't want to miss an opportunity.

In such an atmosphere shopping takes on a grim, life-and-death demeanor. The intent expressions of most shoppers reveal the tension of the search.

"Life is especially hard for retired people," said a hospital worker. "Many cannot buy meat. They can buy vegetables only in state shops where the quality is low. They cannot buy oranges or apples."

Such economic pressure also affects Baptist efforts to construct buildings. A new Baptist complex at Minsk that will include a church, retirement home, medical clinic, library, and seminary was originally estimated to cost 2 million rubles. The estimate has soared to 140 million rubles and is still

climbing.

A 3.5-million ruble grant from the government for the project evaporated in runaway inflation. "Before, we could buy 1,000 bricks for 60 rubles. Now for 60 rubles we can buy only eight bricks," lamented Ivan V. Bukaty, president of the Baptist union.

Bukaty earns 1,000 rubles a month — less than \$10 at current exchange rates. He held out the union's savings account book to show that Baptists have less than the equivalent of \$15 in savings for now.

Where all this will lead remains to be determined. Citizens express growing dissatisfaction with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his efforts to introduce Western-style capitalism to the Commonwealth of Independent States, of which Belarus is a member. Ironically, the Moscow television station seen in Minsk advertises computers, photocopiers, and other products from the West. Most Belarusians cannot dream of buying such things for now.

Baptists say many older people now long for the old days under communism when prices were more stable, even though there was no more to buy.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Mississippi and Christian education

Mississippi College was 36 years old and was doing well in 1861 when the outbreak of war shattered the tranquility of the campus. The school opened with the largest enrollment in its history. Most of the students and three professors formed themselves into a volunteer company called the "Mississippi College Rifles." A few weeks later they marched off to war.

Christian education in the Magnolia State included other institutions. Carey Crane started the Mississippi Baptist Female College at Hernando; W. S. Webb began the Yalobusha Baptist Institute. Female colleges were also located at Pontotoc, Coldwater, Chulahoma in Marshall County, and in Jackson and Clinton.

In north Mississippi the famed General M. P. Lowery founded Blue Mountain Female College in 1873. He was succeeded by his son in 1898. In the 1900 convention minutes, "our schools" were listed as Blue Mountain College, East Fork College, Gillsburg Collegiate

Institute, Hillman Female College, and Mississippi College. Clarke College started in 1907 in Newton by the General Association and opened in 1908 with 104 students. Meanwhile in south Mississippi, the Mississippi Woman's College opened in 1906. The name was later changed to William Carey College.

Some of these schools are with us no more. All experienced tough times. Financial difficulties plagued them often and the marks of sacrifice lay heavy on all of them. Men and women rode long distances in the saddle, by train or auto to fight for the life of their schools. Changing times, rapid transportation, state sponsored schools, and other factors moved in to say they had served their purpose.

Across this 150 years plus of Christian education, just think of all the students to pass through the hollowed halls of the various institutions. There is scarcely a household in our state that has not been influenced by Baptists schools.

Preachers, doctors, lawyers, missionaries, teachers, businessmen, housewives — just about every vocation you name — have graduated and gone forth to lead our nation.

Remember the little freckled-face freshman. His beanie cap pulled low over his eyes left just enough space to view the pretty girl with the bouncing pony-tail. They were married four years later. He is a surgeon now and the pretty girl has several pretty children. Or he may be a missionary in southeast Asia, or a businessman on the Gulf Coast. The thing is, lives have been shaped and molded in a Christian context.

In a few days the cycle will begin again. He will be as scrawny as before and she will be just as lovely. Doors of opportunity beckon, careers are shaped, lives are influenced, as they journey down the hallways where their fathers walked and where their children, yet unborn, will follow. The debt of Mississippi to our Christian colleges is incalculable.

Guest opinion...

Clarke College — why not?

By W. Lowery Compere

During my more than 22 years as president of Clarke College, I learned a bit about the school's remarkable history of service to the denomination and to the cause of Christ. I wish to take issue with a friend whom I hold in high esteem. Ron Kirkland's article in the *Baptist Record* of July 30 tells us a lot of the "what," but not enough about the "why." Most of his "what" is correct, but his "why" is open to question.

When Kirkland was dean of Clarke College, he alerted me to the effect the Education Commission's eight-year phase-out of basic Cooperative Program funding could have on Clarke. He convinced me that this phase-out would be a disaster.

I wrote a letter to all Convention board members showing this plan was unjustified. At my last meeting as a member of the board (Nov. 11, 1986), I made the motion that the phase-out plan be halted and rolled back to the first year of the drop — 1984. Clarke College could not live under this phase-out; the school would gradually starve to death and certainly lose its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). My motion was voted down.

In that same meeting the board approved a recommendation from the Education Commission that William Carey College be authorized to secure a loan of \$2,000,000 for campus renovation, adding to their total indebtedness of several million dollars.

Kirkland's statement that "Clarke College has continued to receive a stable allocation from the Convention through the years of the 'merger'" is not entirely correct. During the years of the phase-out in basic funding a total of approximately \$800,000 was diverted from Clarke and given to the other three institutions. In November 1988, the Convention voted by an overwhelming two-to-one margin to return \$200,000 of these funds to Clarke. So, during the phase-out period, Clarke was actually denied \$600,000. Had that money been provided for Clarke, there is no doubt that SACS would have reaffirmed the accreditation.

The SACS visiting committee raised a number of questions — all of which were satisfied, except two: lack of long-range planning, and lack of financial support.

The latter was the direct result of the phase-out in basic funding. The SACS Committee also had difficulty understanding the

"merger." It is easy to see why they did not understand the "merger," because the rank and file Mississippi Baptists — and even most of the Convention leadership — didn't understand it, either.

The statement that "Baptist junior colleges, once prominent across our national convention, have practically disappeared," is partially true, but does not give the entire picture. What happened to these colleges that supposedly disappeared? Consider these facts:

In 1956 there were 21 Baptist junior colleges in SBC territory. Twenty years later, in 1976, there were seven. What about the other 14? Only two of them closed. The other twelve became senior colleges. In a report given to the Clarke trustees in 1980, a researcher suggested that Clarke would need \$10 million in endowment to become a senior college. At that time, not one of the Baptist senior colleges in Mississippi had anything close to \$10 million in endowment. Mississippi College had about half that much. Blue Mountain had less than \$1 million, and William Carey had about \$1.3 million. Of the 46 SBC senior colleges across the South, only nine had \$10 million or more in endowment. Of the 12 junior colleges

that became senior colleges from 1956-76, only one had endowment of more than \$5 million; seven had less than \$1 million, and two had less than \$100,000 — including Hannibal-LaGrange in Missouri, whose history, record of service, enrollment, and total assets had run closely parallel to Clarke's through the years.

Hannibal-LaGrange's merger with Missouri Baptist College at St. Louis became the same total disaster that we have experienced at Clarke. Fortunately, its loyal alumni and friends stepped in just in time and got it "un-merged." That merger had lasted six years. The college added upper-level work in just a few areas to provide for students preparing for church-related vocations. Enrollment doubled in a couple of years, and now this thriving school has more than 1,000 students.

Kirkland states: "There was never any conspiracy to close Clarke College that I know anything about." Many people think there must have been such a conspiracy. A question asked me by scores of people after the Convention approved the "merger" was: "Do you think the 'merger' was simply a ruse to close Clarke College?" Now that question has become a firm statement from many thinking people: "See, this was a ruse to close Clarke College!"

Was there a conspiracy? In regard to an organized conspiracy, I agree with Kirkland that there was none. The people who have dealt with this matter are people of integrity and were doing what they actually thought was right.

(See CLARKE on page 10)

Time has revealed the opposite. I do not believe there was ever any group that met with the express purpose of working out a strategy to close Clarke College; however, had there been such a group to meet and work out such a strategy; and, had it been orchestrated by a master mind — they could not possibly have worked out a better plan than the scenario that was played out during the 1980s.

The negative publicity that raised doubts about Clarke's future during the 1980s and beyond dissuaded many would-be students from attending Clarke. The undefined "merger" left the way open for diverse interpretations. The eight-year phase-out was enacted by people "acting in harmony" which was the principle factor in the closing of Clarke College.

A merger takes place when two corporations enter into an agreement to consider and study a possible union. Over an extended period of time, each corporation makes a thorough study of the other. There are negotiations between the two as to the basis of the merger. Upon approval, legal documentation of said merger is filed.

In the case of college mergers, most of these steps need to be taken. How many were taken in the "merger" of Clarke and Mississippi College? None. There was never any research or study before the proposed "merger" was presented to the Convention for approval. There was no negotiation between the two boards before or after the Convention action. There was no clearly defined plan

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 116 (ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The *Baptist Record* is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

NUMBER 26

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to

The Editor, *Baptist Record*
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 968-3800

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 13, 1992

Published Since 1877

Annuity Board sets rates on state-by-state basis

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists' Church Comprehensive Medical Plan will be priced according to state experience, although an effective date has not been set.

Southern Baptist Annuity Board trustees, meeting in Atlanta, heard reports of a modest decline in claims but a slow, steady loss in participants.

The board's executive staff brought a recommendation to begin rating state by state to bring more fairness to the rate structure and protect against shifting losses from one state to another if a state convention endorses another plan as an alternative. The move was supported by independent consultants and the board's carrier, Prudential Insurance Company of America.

Joel H. Mathis, senior vice president for insurance administration, said it is too early to say which states may benefit or be hurt by the change.

"Our consultants and carrier are already hard at work analyzing claims state by state. We know some states will have no increase

in rates for 1993. Others may have a significant increase."

Mathis said he will issue information in the next several weeks to help churches know how to budget for the medical program in 1993.

"I am well aware," Mathis said, "that everyone is anxious for details. I wish we had them today. We don't. But we'll inform every church at the earliest possible moment.

Annuity Board President Paul W. Powell spoke with alarm to trustees about the apparent lack of commitment to the denomination's medical plan. "Confronted with steeply rising costs and decreasing participation, many churches have sought less expensive coverage elsewhere. At the same time, messengers to state conventions have clamored for their states' executive leadership to find solutions close to home," he said.

"Insurance consultants tell us that ours is a unique plan and it cannot survive unless it has the support of its sponsoring groups — and that includes SBC leadership, state conventions, and local

churches," Powell said. "If our leadership does not participate in, support and endorse the plan, and if our people do not come in, it cannot survive.

Powell told trustees there are three things state conventions and churches can do to make the medical plan healthy and competitive.

"One," Powell said, "is to encourage every church to do its God-ordained duty and support the ministers they call to serve. Every church ought to pay the whole cost of medical and disability coverage for every employee. It's not salary. It's the cost of being a church.

"Second, every minister should commit himself or herself to be brother and sister in the plan and stop chasing lower rates with other plans and leaving their sick brothers. Also, many of these plans cannot or will not guarantee portability if God calls to another state.

"And third," Powell said, "neither the state convention nor the SBC Executive Committee should ever endorse another plan."

"What we are doing," Powell said, "is declaring to the churches (See RATES on page 10)

\$17 million credited to state conventions by Annuity Board

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist state conventions will receive \$17 million in billing credits for the Church Annuity Plan as a result of action by Annuity Board trustees Aug. 3-4 in Atlanta.

"Our excellent earnings with investments in the Protection Section and a favorable claims experience created a surplus," said Paul W. Powell, president of the Dallas-based agency. In deciding to make the credits, Powell added, "We saw this as a blessing to the states who paid in the original contributions."

The Protection Section is a state convention-funded part of the Church Annuity Plan that provides supplemental disability and life benefits to eligible participants.

The allocation of surplus funds in the Church Annuity Plan to state conventions was the third major financial boost from the Annuity Board this year. In January more than 16,000 annuitants received a permanent 10% increase in monthly benefits. In

July all 22,000 annuitants received a permanent 5% increase. Also, the 734 annuitants with a variable annuity received an increase of more than 25% Jan. 1.

Trustees heard a mixed report on the board's Church Comprehensive Medical Plan. Claims were down and reserves were reported rising to a level to permit introduction of two less-costly optional plans Jan. 1. However, participation in the comprehensive plan is declining.

The board voted to change rates for the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan to a state-by-state experience basis, with the effective date to be announced.

In another major action, trustees approved a staff recommendation that the Annuity Board begin preparations leading to a restructure of its investment functions into a mutual fund format. Its investment funds would become registered securities under Securities and Exchange Commission regulations. The board's invest-

ment committee explained the move will allow the Annuity Board to better serve its annuitants, retirement plan participants and Southern Baptist agencies and institutions.

In his quarterly report to trustees, Powell reported continuing growth in both enrollments and contributions to the Church Annuity Plan and Convention Annuity Plan.

Relief payments by the board are funded by an allocation from the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program. Otherwise, the Cooperative Program provides no funds for the board's operating expenses. Expenses are paid from earnings on assets.

Insurance receipts for the second quarter were reported up 5.9%, with group receipts up 18% and church plan receipts down 3.6%. Reserves were reported in the best condition since 1987.

Trustees were told that preparations have been made to introduce two new catastrophic medical (See CREDIT on page 9)

Head-on collision kills two Baptist ministers

Two Mississippi Baptist ministers were killed Aug. 6 in a two-car accident on Mississippi 44 south of Monticello. James "Jimmy" Yarbrough, 71, of Monticello, and Darryl J. Petry, 48, of New Hebron, were returning to their homes following Petry revival services

at Jayess Church in Lawrence Association when their car was hit head-on by an out-of-control automobile. The driver of the second car also was killed.

Yarbrough, who was serving as interim pastor at Jayess Church at the time of his death, was a long-time Mississippi Baptist pastor, serving churches in Jackson, Vicksburg, Clinton, Monticello, Petal and Newhebron. A native of Crystal Springs, he was a graduate of Mississippi College.

Services were held Aug. 9 at Monticello Church, where he was a member, with burial in Hillcrest Cemetery in Petal.

Survivors include his wife,

Wanda Lee; daughters, Kathy Brooks of Shreveport, La., Brenda McHan of Stringer, and Miriam Culbertson of Ellisville; stepdaughter, Denise Berry of Aurora, Colo.; stepsons, Charles Pringle of Harrisonburg, Va., Terry Pringle of Abilene, Texas, and Richard Pringle of Aurora, Colo.; 12 grandchildren; and a brother and a sister, both living in California.

Petry was minister of music and activities at Newhebron Church. He also had served churches in Greenville, Indianola, Brookhaven, McComb, and Denham Springs, La. Petry held degrees from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Services were held Aug. 8 at Newhebron Church, with burial in the church cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Jan; two children, Joel and Regan; his father, Ephraim E. Petry of Westwego, La.; three brothers and four sisters, all living in Louisiana.

State July CP gifts show three percent rise over 1991

July gifts of Mississippi Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program totaled \$1,867,248, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

And 1992 giving through Southern Baptists' unified giving plan totaled \$12,655,679. This is \$391,487, or 3.19%, more than that given in the same seven month period of 1991.

If the \$21,588,435-budget were divided on a pro rata basis, the amount would be \$12,593,254. This means that Mississippi Baptist churches are giving \$62,425, or one-half of one percent, ahead

of the budget at this juncture. Cooperative Program gifts provide church and associational leader training, child care, Christian higher education, and home and world missions.

Nationally, Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program funds received by the SBC Executive Committee dipped 1.89% over the same month a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, the committee's president-treasurer.

In Cooperative Program giving, the July 1992 total was \$11,372,445 compared to July 1991 gifts of \$11,591,867, or down 1.89%.



Mississippi River Ministry kick-off

Ray Grissett (standing), director of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, leads discussion among a large contingent of state Baptists attending the first Mississippi River Ministry Convocation Aug. 7-8 at Eudora Church in Memphis. Grissett is a member of the steering committee for the new ministry program. See page 8 for related story. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

MBMC: combining science, faith

Emergency room drama as seen on television often neglect to mention some of the key players in a physician's diagnosis and treatment. But in dramatic life and death scenes in real hospitals, the medical team recognizes the critical supporting role played by medical and radiologic technologists.

"Medical technologists perform and analyze laboratory tests that physicians use to diagnose and treat patients," explained Gwinn Magee, assistant executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center schools of medical technology and radiography. "Radiologic technologists assist with X-ray procedures."

"We expect our students and our staff to be intellectually curious and to strive for excellence," Magee said.

During the past 20 years, 92% of MBMC's medical technology students have passed the national certification examinations required for employment. The national pass rate is only 80%. During the past

11 years, 97% of MBMC's radiography students have passed their national certification examinations.

"Learning to meet the challenges of the medical professions in a clinical setting at MBMC gives our students the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience," said Kent Strum, MBMC executive director. "Our instructors are qualified and experienced medical technologists and radiological technologists. When our students graduate, they are prepared to find good jobs and are rewarded by the tremendous sense of service that comes from helping others."

In addition to the education programs and up-to-date clinical experience, MBMC emphasizes spiritual enrichment. An active Baptist Student Union, led by Kathy Bearden, offers Christian fellowship and activities for students.

"We have a good group of students, and we want to reach people," commented Bearden. "The hospital is our mission field. We find plenty of opportunities to witness and to serve. This year we raised 115% of our goal for student summer missions."

BSUers also are involved in a variety of ministry projects, Bearden noted. Among those planned for this year is one organizing a garage sale to raise money for Community Missions — an effort which provides toys for patients in the Pediatric Unit and breakfast for patients' family members in the ICU waiting area. Other events include Religious Emphasis Week Oct. 26-30, featuring Mike Pennoch, director of evangelism for First Church, Brandon; and a program honoring parents of MBMC students.

MBMC's combined emphasis on intellectual and spiritual development helps students succeed, Bearden said. "Strong administrative backing, dedicated instructors, excellent clinical experience, and good Christian fellowship com-

bine to build a firm foundation for the student beginning his or her medical career."

"BSU means a lot to me," shared radiology student May Killebrew of Columbus. "BSU provides a great source of support for the students. I really enjoy our BSU Bible studies each Monday."

"I chose to come to MBMC's School of Radiography because I wanted a school that would nurture my spiritual needs as well as my educational needs and because of the hospital itself," she added. "MBMC is well-respected and large enough to give us good clinical experience. I knew I would have the opportunity to work closely with the patients and the staff."

Jeff Smith from Wesson, a medical technology student, heard about MBMC's program from his advisor at Delta State University. "I checked into several schools, but MBMC appealed to me because of its Baptist affiliation. I believe it is important to minister

to the patient spiritually as well as physically," Smith noted. "The people are friendly here, and the instructors really care about their students."

"We enjoy having students at the medical center," remarked Magee. "Students give us a chance to get acquainted with today's youth. We believe students play a vital role in our hospital. Their ideas, energy, and inquisitive minds challenge us to provide them with the best resources possible."

Students who reach the medical technologist level are required to have a baccalaureate degree. Radiologic technologist applicants must be 18 years old and have a high school education or the equivalent. In addition, the person should have a strong math background and have an ACT score of 18 or above.

For more information about MBMC's allied health schools, contact Kathy Bearden at MBMC, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202; phone (601) 968-5144.

Blue Mountain College: meeting today's challenges

Blue Mountain College begins its 1992-93 academic session with the opening of dormitories Aug. 30 and orientation and registration the following day. Classes begin Sept. 1.

Orientation provides an opportunity for new and transferring students to meet faculty and administrative staff. President E. Harold Fisher will preside over the program and make special introductions. During this session, the history and pride of BMC will be shared with students as well as the exciting events planned for the '92-93 session.

A special workshop for freshmen is planned for Aug. 30 from 3-5 p.m. in the Broach Baptist Student Union. The theme for the workshop is "How to Survive in College" and will include tips on time management, study habits and developing a quiet time. The workshop also provides a time for freshmen to interact in fun activities and become better acquainted.

"BSU Roundup" is the theme for this year's welcome party. Along with fun, food and fellowship, the evening also includes the introduction of the 1992-93 Baptist Student Union Council and Bobbie King Cox, a 1989 BMC graduate who will serve during the year as a BSU intern. Students also will learn of ways they can become involved in BSU, which endeavors to help students grow spiritually as they continue to grow mentally and socially during the year. This year's BSU calendar includes regular Bible study programs and worship experiences, as well as opportunities for students to use gifts and talents in ministry.

Along with new students, BMC also welcomes three new faculty members: Thomas D. Cockrell, James R. Bryson, and June Meyer. Cockrell, who will teach and serve as chair of the history department, holds a doctor's degree from Mississippi State University. Bryson, a graduate of the University of Mississippi, will teach in the mathe-

matics department. Meyer, a graduate of BMC and Ole Miss, will teach piano.

The 1992-93 academic session promises a variety of challenges and opportunities for BMC students, faculty, and administration alike. At the top of the list for faculty and administration will be BMC's self-study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The study process has begun with committees on purpose and institutional effectiveness making their reports to the faculty. The self-study process will intensify next year, culminating with the site visit, scheduled for April 18-21, 1994.

A unique opportunity for prospective BMC students is the High School Weekend, scheduled for Nov. 20-21. The weekend is designed to provide high school students an opportunity to get a "taste" of college life. The event begins Friday afternoon with registration and tours of the campus, followed by an evening performance of the musical "Annie" in the BMC Theatre. Then evening ends with a reception hosted by President and Mrs. Fisher, featuring 1992 Miss Mississippi Kandace Williams.

The Saturday morning program will include introductions of faculty and staff, presentations by BMC alumni, and an opportunity to visit various departments of the college. Following lunch in Ray Dining Hall, the guests will be treated to an afternoon of basketball as the BMC Toppers face Lane College.

The fall semester student body and others will be challenged by the 1992 Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Series, planned for Oct. 19-21. Featured lecturer will be Marge Caldwell, an author and speaker on women's issues.

BMC takes pride in congratulating President Fisher in being the first Mississippian to serve as president of the National School Boards Association (NSBA). Fisher began his service in April dur-

ing NSBA's Annual Convention in Orlando, Fla. NSBA was founded in 1940 and represents approximately 97,000 school board members across the country.

The college also congratulates Miss Williams in her selection as 1992 Miss Mississippi. A 1991 graduate of Blue Mountain College, Miss Williams is an outstanding Christian and will be a worthy representative of the Magnolia state.

In speaking on the mission of Blue Mountain College, President Fisher described the college as "a distinctive Christian institution which has a two-fold mission —

the education of women and the education of men in full-time church-related vocations.

"There are many opportunities and challenges for educational institutions at this particular time," he added, "and Christian institutions have a special responsibility in shaping the world in which we live.

"It is exciting when you know who you are and what you are, and that is where Blue Mountain College has made a significant difference," Fisher noted. "We have been successful in helping the students understand themselves, their strengths and weaknesses, and

then to gain the self-confidence necessary to make a positive contribution where they have lived and worked.

"It is a blessing to be an institution committed to responding to the needs of its students, of society and its sponsoring denomination," the president commented. "Blue Mountain College has a rich heritage, but we are not resting on past achievements. We are meeting the challenges of today, and God is providing for us in a marvelous way!"

Compiled by the Blue Mountain public relations office.

By helping you become your best, Blue Mountain offers an education for a lifetime.

Blue Mountain College offers an environment which stimulates learning and nurtures Christian faith. At Blue Mountain, we challenge and enable YOU

- ★ to grow intellectually and spiritually;
- ★ to build lasting friendships;
- ★ to discover talents and the joys of sharing them with others;
- ★ to assume a responsible, creative role in college and community life;
- ★ to respond confidently and successfully to the challenges of the 21st Century.



Mississippi College: celebrating longevity

By Norman Gough

Although Mississippi College will be initiating its 167th academic session when freshmen start arriving on campus on Aug. 22, emphasis won't be on the longevity of the institution or the 142 years of partnership with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The aforementioned are important — very, very important — but this upcoming school year will find the spotlight focusing on the 25th anniversary year of Lewis Nobles as president of the institution.

Rightfully so, too, for in observing his 25th anniversary Nobles' ties the longevity record in the top administrative post with the late Dotson McGinnis Nelson, president from 1932 to 1957.

It has been under the leadership of Nobles that Mississippi College has enjoyed unprecedented success

that has attracted national recognition to the college and has earned for its chief executive officer the distinction of being named "one of the 18 most effective presidents of colleges and universities in the United States."

"The Nobles Legacy — A Quarter Century of Educational Excellence" will be the theme for the anniversary year. A new logo featuring the theme, plus a number of special programs are being planned throughout the school year to spotlight the accomplishments of the Nobles administration.

"When I entered this office for the first time as president on July 1, 1968, I could scarcely have imagined what would transpire in the years to come," said Nobles in reflecting on his term as president.

"As I begin my 25th year, I do so

with the same thoughts as the first: Mississippi College is a great institution, there is a world of potential for future greatness, and it is the responsibility of all of us who care about the institution to work, under God's leadership, for continued greatness," stated Nobles.

Occupying a great deal of Nobles' time during his anniversary year will be involvement in a capital funds campaign entitled "Challenge 2000," aimed at future greatness for the institution. The campaign will be seeking \$18 million for the construction of a new multi-purpose classroom building, renovation of Alumni Hall, dormitory renovation, endowed chairs and other programs. Initiated in February, the campaign has already received approximately \$5.5 million in gifts and pledges from the Jackson area alone.

The 25-year leadership of Nobles has resulted in the College vaulting into prominence among the nation's most prominent institutions of higher learning. This has been real exciting for Nobles, a real tribute to Mississippi College, and great exposure for Mississippi Baptists.

Although the national exposure has served the college well, major emphasis at the institution continues to be aimed toward Mississippi Baptists and those non-traditional students within commuting distance of the campus or programs being made available elsewhere in the central Mississippi area. Classes are being offered in downtown Jackson and at other sites for credit or noncredit.

Classes will also be returning to the Northpark Mall Shopping Center in Ridgeland by popular demand, one of the ways the college has attempted to meet the needs of busy adults. Offered this fall will be investment management, public relations, and advertising, with all classes meeting in the mall Community Room.

The U.S. News and World Report and Barron's College Guide continue to list the education offered at the college as one of the nation's "best buys in higher education." For the fourth consecutive year the college has been placed on

the Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges by the Templeton Foundation and for the third year in a row to the Honor Roll of Free Enterprise Teaching. Very few colleges have made both honor rolls.

Such national recognition comes about not only because of the leadership of Nobles, but because of his ability to attract strong faculty and staff members concerned with the academic and personal needs of the students.

A number of new faculty members, including two who will also head up academic departments, have been hired during the summer months and will be on hand to greet students when they arrive for the start of the 167th session.

Lloyd Allen will become head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy and serve as associate professor, while Tommy Leavelle will become head of the Department of Mathematics and Computing Science and serve as associate professor. Allen replaces John G. McCall, a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, who becomes Director of Church Relations, but will still teach in the area of Bible. Leavelle fills the post vacated by the retirement of James Bumside.

Other new faculty or administrative staff members who have already been approved by the board of trustees include Christine DuBose, instructor in English; Selwyn Ellis, instructor in business; Billy Folkes, Director of Continuing Education; Michael Johnson, associate professor of religion; Scott F. Norbert, assistant professor of law; and Tom Williams, assistant professor of education. Other new faculty members are expected to be approved at the Sept. 17 meeting of the board of trustees.

Perhaps the most noticeable physical change on campus will be a passenger elevator in Nelson Hall, the main administration building and site of numerous classrooms. The elevator, with five stops, will make the building more accessible to handicapped persons. A handicap ramp will also be installed on the outside of the building.

The parking lot behind Heder-

man-Gunter residence halls will have been resurfaced by the time students arrive, while some major refurbishing has taken place in several other residence halls. Whittington Hall, a men's residence, has undergone a good facelift, including a repainting of all the rooms, refinishing of the doors and new lock cylinders installed, plus a new cooling tower. Mary Nelson Hall, an upperclass residence for women, has been repainted and other improvements have been made in the building.

New classrooms will be in use on the second floor of Jennings Hall, a building constructed in 1907 as a dormitory but converted just recently to administrative offices and classrooms. A new paneled conference room has been added to the Jennings complex and other improvements are scheduled to be carried out later in the year.

The fall semester officially gets underway on Aug. 22 as freshmen report for resident hall assignments and general orientation. The orientation registration session begins at 1 p.m. in Provine Chapel's Spell Auditorium as students and their parents gather to meet and hear from administrative personnel and representatives of the Student Body Association.

Academic advising will begin at 2:30 p.m. for the students, while the parents will move to the B.C. Rogers Student Center for a reception hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Nobles. The Nobles will also be hosting the new students on Aug. 23 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in an open house at Hendrick House, home of the president.

Registration will get underway for all new students on Aug. 25 with transfers registering in the morning hours and freshmen in the afternoon. Returning upperclassmen will register all day Aug. 26.

Graduate and undergraduate students attending Evening School only will register in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on Aug. 24 from 4:30-7 p.m. Evening school registration is also scheduled for Aug. 27, from 5-7 p.m., and again on Sept. 1, from 5-7 p.m., in the Student Center.

Gough is director of public relations, Mississippi College.

School of Law: experiencing growth

While the number of applications to ABA-approved law schools decreased slightly in 1991-92, Mississippi College School of Law experienced its largest number of applications ever — 1,150 for 146 available seats. Last year's total represents an increase of over 100% in the applicant pool in a five-year period, with 498 individuals applying in 1987. This year's enrollment will total some 375 students, representing 25 states and over 75 colleges and universities.

The credentials for the entering class also have improved with a median LSAT of 154 — the national average is 151 — and a median undergraduate grade point average of 3.1. Each applicant is

carefully selected for admission based on individual capabilities, accomplishments and the experience the applicant will bring to the school.

The 1992-93 academic year will bring additions to the law school's 16-member faculty and administrative structure. Joining the faculty as an assistant professor is Scott F. Norberg, who holds both A.B. and J. D. degrees from the University of North Carolina.

Administratively, a Career Services Office has been created to serve as a liaison between students and prospective employers. Directed by J. Michael Maloney, assistant dean of the school, the office will supply students' resumes to

potential employers and maintain a career information library, including current job openings and files on law firms, corporations and agencies.

Along with studies, students also can participate in a number of campus organizations. One of the most active groups on campus is the Christian Legal Society.

Along with weekly meetings, CLS also sponsors a number of projects including a food drive for Stewpot, the Mid-South Student Leadership Conference, and a Prayer Breakfast for Law Day. CLS's faculty advisor, Mary Libby Payne, was the keynote speaker at the organization's national conference last year.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

Your oldest institution of higher learning is ready for its 167th academic session. As Baptists, you can take pride in the national recognition received by Mississippi College. It has been acclaimed as one of America's finest!!

Our goal is to continue to offer quality education intertwined with character building traits that have found us on the select Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges in the United States for the past four years.

Continue to send students our way. Fall registration will be held in the A. E. Wood Coliseum. Admission to registration will be based on classification and the first letter of the student's surname according to the following schedule:

AUGUST 24, MONDAY

4:30-7:00 p.m. Registration of ALL NIGHT students

*Advisors located in their offices

AUGUST 25, TUESDAY

Transfers.

A-L 8:30-10:00 a.m.
M-Z 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Freshmen (1)

A-G 1:30-2:15 p.m.
H-P 2:15-3:00 p.m.
Q-Z 3:00-3:30 p.m.

AUGUST 26, WEDNESDAY

Seniors (4)

A-G 8:30-9:30 a.m.
H-P 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Q-Z 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Juniors (3)

A-L 1:30-2:00 p.m.
M-Z 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Sophomores (2)

A-L 2:30-3:00 p.m.
M-Z 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Graduate and Non-Degree Students

Graduate and Non-Degree students may register at any of the times listed above.

AUGUST 27, THURSDAY CLASSES BEGIN

REGISTRATION ON THE FOLLOWING DATES TO BE HELD IN THE B.C. ROGERS HALL OF FAME ROOM.

AUGUST 27, THURSDAY

*5:00-7:00 p.m. Night Registration

SEPTEMBER 1, TUESDAY

*5:00-7:00 p.m. Night Registration

Call 925-3240 for undergraduate information or 925-3225 for graduate

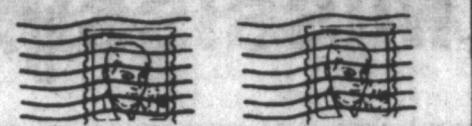
"A MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST INSTITUTION SINCE 1850"



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
Clinton, MS 39058



Letters to the editor



The Baptist Record welcomes letters to the editor. Your opinion is important. We do suggest you stay with issues, not personalities. We reserve the right to edit letters. No more than 250 words, please — readers will read a short letter before they will read a long one. No form letters or unsigned letters will be printed. Please allow 90 days to pass before submitting your next letter. Include your name, address, day time telephone number, and church membership.

National scandal Editor:

A national scandal? Approximately 500,000 die yearly or are ruined for life by drunk drivers. About 400,000 to 500,000 die each year in the U.S. due to tobacco use.

Who is responsible for this scandal? The manufacturers of the products; the promoters of the products; the sellers of the products; the purchasers of the products. Those who are indirectly responsible are those who are troubled but do nothing; those who are not even aware of the problem; those who are afraid to do anything.

Where is this scandal promoted? In magazines readily available in all sorts of public places: doctor's offices, hospital waiting rooms, barber shops, and beauty parlors, wherever the public assembles. We promote it in our living rooms.

When are we going to do something about this scandal? When we notify the publishers we will not renew our subscriptions because they promote alcohol and other detrimental drugs and because they promote tobacco, which is one of our most addictive drugs. When we refuse to take a new sub-

scription to a publication because they promote this scandal.

How much do we care about this scandal? How much is a human life worth? Should we aid in taking a life, which only God can give? Are we aiding senseless murder? Think on these things. Does it bother your conscience?

J. P. Parks
Clinton

Kudos for Kirkland Editor:

I would like to commend Ron Kirkland for his recent article on the closing of Clarke College. He has expressed my sentiment and I feel the sentiment of many other Mississippi Baptists. I, too, loved Clarke College and am proud of the education which I received there and the opportunities Clarke gave me.

I agree that Clarke had been sick for a long time and from my viewpoint, one of the main reasons for her sickness is Baptists did not send her young people to be educated there.

My son was among the 15 or so students in the last graduating class. As I visited the campus to attend his graduation my heart

broke as death revealed itself all around. Empty parking lots, empty dormitory buildings, empty classrooms, and empty cafeteria. I cannot describe the lonely feelings I had for her, as I remembered a once lively and well lady.

I hope we now can let her rest in peace as we make other plans for her facilities which would continue to bring glory to her memory and to the ongoing glory of our God.

Ron Mercer
Meridian

Interpreters wanted Editor:

I am writing on behalf of the Mississippi Baptist Conference for the Deaf and we, the officers, really need your help to find more interpreters for the deaf.

For more information, contact Jim Booth, a missionary for the deaf. His address is P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, phone (601) 968-3800 or 353-2331 (TDD only).

I appreciate your support and prayers for the deaf. Please pray for the deaf people.

Mary Laird
vice president
Bogue Chitto

Single prejudice Editor:

I could not believe a Southern Baptist could be so prejudiced

concerning Christian singles chaperoning youth groups.

They seem to have forgotten Jesus himself was single, and I hardly think he would have been disqualified. Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong were both single and look what they did for the Master.

Some of my best teachers and my children's best teachers were single and often served as chaperones.

It is very necessary to have our youth chaperoned by good dedicated Christians, and I do think they should be supervised at all times. This is the answer. Christ works as much in single people as he does in married couples.

E. W. Gibson
Jackson

Doctrinal controversy Editor:

Regardless of protestations to the contrary, the recent SBC imbroglio was and is about doctrine. Personalities, power struggles, and casualties notwithstanding, the issue was and is the inerrancy of the Word of God in the original autographs.

After signing the Baptist Faith and Message statement that the Bible is the Word of God, "without any mixture of error" liberal professors infiltrated some of our seminaries and then proceeded to deny the inerrancy of Scripture, and deny that they were denying it, until incontestably exposed.

Could it be that our moderate friends, behind whom the liberals gratefully hide, let salaries, careers, their comfort zone, be part of the reason? Some career moderates, themselves, inerrantists, lost their positions because they stood against fundamentalists defending the Word, and for those who were denying the Word. Some fundamentalists hurt Christ and his cause, by not speaking the truth in love. Liberals have hurt him, his people, and the lost, a hundredfold more, causing turmoil and despair to millions who sink into an eternal hell without a clear word from God. Liberals repeatedly have infiltrated seminaries founded by fundamentalists, taken them over, and despoiled denomination after denomination, emptying churches, quelling soul-winning and demolishing missions. When God awakened fundamentalists in the SBC, the process was well underway, until they began to take back the schools they had founded.

Inerrancy is a vital doctrine, on which other basic doctrines are founded.

God has allowed inerrantists to win, in answer to years of prayers, tears, and heartbreak, although some ground yet remains to be repossessed. We call on the Baptist Record to rejoice with millions of us in this victory for Christ and his Word for a compassionate outreach to a lost world for his glory!

Floyd C. McElveen
Petal

D.C. appropriations bill faces veto due to abortion-related provision

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Senate approved July 30 an appropriations bill for the District of Columbia that faces a likely presidential veto because of an abortion-related provision.

The bill (H.R. 5517) also contains a provision requiring D.C. voters to decide whether to allow the death penalty for first-degree murder in the district.

The bill appropriates more than \$700 million for fiscal 1993, including \$30 million for crime-fighting initiatives.

The bill probably will be vetoed because of an abortion-related provision. The bill explicitly prohibits the use of federal dollars for abortions except when the life of the mother is threatened, but it remains silent on the use of district funds for abortion.

The Bush administration has said the president will veto the bill unless language is added to prohibit D.C. from using local funds for abortions, except when the mother's life is endangered. President Bush has vetoed the D.C. appropriations bills in the past three years because it did not contain explicit prohibitions against D.C. funds being used for abortions.

Although abortion has been the

focus of controversy surrounding D.C. appropriations in recent years, this year's debate centered on a death-penalty amendment offered by Sen. Richard Shelby, D-Ala.

Shelby, whose aide Thomas Barnes was shot to death on Capitol Hill in January, offered an amendment that would make first-degree murder a capital offense in the district. He said he offered the amendment on behalf of the 248 people who have been murdered in the district in 1992.

"I am not sure that people around here appreciate what it is to murder someone anymore," Shelby said. "That worries me, and it worries a lot of people in America, including thousands in this city."

Reading the names of the 248 victims, Shelby said, "I believe something must be done to stop this carnage."

Sen. Brock Adams, D-Wash., offered a compromise to Shelby's amendment. Adams' compromise, adopted by voice vote, would require the district voters to decide within 90 days after the bill's enactment whether or not to adopt the death penalty. The compromise amendment was approved.

Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., offered another amendment that would prohibit the district from

implementing an act that would extend health-care benefits to non-traditional family members, including co-habiting homosexuals, and unmarried heterosexuals.

Lott said the district's program "seriously undermines fundamental family values. It is fundamentally unfair, and there is a cost involved for the federal government if this is allowed to stay on the books of the District of Columbia."

Adams disagreed, saying that the issue is health insurance. He said the district's policy also would help provide insurance coverage to other non-traditional family members, such as grandparents, grandchildren, senior citizens whose spouses have died, displaced homemakers, and the disabled who cannot live alone.

Lott's amendment was approved by voice vote.

The Senate bill was approved by voice vote and has been sent to conference. A conference committee must iron out differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The House and Senate bills have similar abortion language, but the House rejected the requirement that D.C. be prevented from implementing its policy extending health benefits to non-traditional family members.



Clowning around in Chicago

Members of Northside Church in Clinton and Northminster Church in Jackson prepare to canvass the neighborhood around Uptown Church in Chicago to invite children to attend daily Backyard Bible Clubs. Participants included (back row, from left) Joe Wiggs, LeWynn Sturdivant, Mark Wiggs, (middle row, from left) Barbara Oliver, Jeanne Cook, Cathy Cotten, (front row, from left) Kitty Brogan, Rebecca Wiggs, and Ruth Ellen Rookmaker. They were among 13 participants from the two churches who were involved in the mission trip earlier this summer.

WCC: expecting great things from God

William Carey College expects record enrollments on all three campuses when the fall trimester begins Aug. 17. As of July 27 early registration for freshmen had exceeded the total freshman enrollment for fall trimester 1991 by 23% on the Hattiesburg campus. Early registration for freshmen on the Gulfport campus had exceeded the total freshmen fall enrollment in 1991 by 77%. There has also been an increase in freshmen early registration on the New Orleans campus by 57% over the total freshmen enrollment fall 1991.

"This record enrollment is the result of cooperative efforts of a large, enthusiastic team," said Tom Scarbrough, director of enrollment management. "Students respond to concern and individual attention exhibited by faculty and staff."

This larger student body will begin the 1992-93 year with an exciting schedule of events. In Hattiesburg, Dean of Students Steve Smith and newly appointed Director of Student Activities Melinda Runnels have been assisted by Tracy Powell, president of Student Government Association, in planning for the new year.

Dormitories open Aug. 19 for new students. Student government leaders will lead orientation sessions, an important goal of which

is to make newcomers feel at home at Carey.

Returning students begin checking into dormitories Aug. 20, and a volleyball and ice cream party is featured that night.

Rosalind Robbins, director of student activities at William Carey College on the Coast, will direct orientation there Aug. 18-21, featuring a welcome back party around the pool overlooking the Gulf.

Students will also return to campuses benefitting from beautification projects. In New Orleans, the Southern Baptist Hospital has provided an expanded area for the nursing program. On the Coast, the addition of full-time faculty required renovations to provide office space for professors in business and art, and expanded space to provide for art studios.

In Hattiesburg, the Chain Garden, named for Betty and Bobby Chain, enhances the beauty of the grounds and provides places for meditation and quiet retreat. The lobby area of the Thomas Fine Arts Center was redecorated and the auditorium was named the Dumas L. Smith Auditorium. New carpet and paint brightens Bass Hall, the freshman dormitory for women.

Dumas L. and Lorena Roseberry Smith, two long-time supporters of

William Carey College, funded a new Teaching Excellence Program through a \$264,000 gift to the college. The program is planned to support teaching excellence professorships for faculty who have exceptional long-term performance, and annual grants, awards, and stipends for faculty who demonstrate teaching excellence.

The \$264,000 gift of the Smiths pushed the total dollars raised from private sources over the \$400,000 goal set for the year for the "Visions of Excellence Program." By surpassing the goal, William Carey College continues to push toward the institution's overall Visions of Excellence plan to raise \$3 million for ongoing needs by 1993.

The 1992-93 athletic program promises to be just as exciting as last year, as all of the teams have enjoyed successful recruiting seasons. In men's basketball, Torrey John, a 6'6" forward from Jones Junior College, heads the list of six newcomers.

Women's basketball has seven new players, led by Amanda Strickland of East Central High School, and Barbara Brown of Jones Junior College. Baseball signees include All State outfielder, Dominic Jordan of Poplarville, and All State pitcher, Mark Homberg of Slidell, La.

Men's and women's tennis have

several newcomers with excellent credentials, as do the men's and women's soccer teams. Look for the WCC Athletic Program to continue its winning tradition, once again, during the 1992-93 school year.

Plans for Homecoming 1992 are underway. Highlights will include reunions of classes of 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, as well as the "Fifty-Plus Club" of Mississippi Women's College.

The second annual Homecoming Basketball Classic will feature the Carey Crusaders against Belhaven College, Faulkner University (Ala.), and Missouri Baptist College. The awards luncheon on Saturday will honor the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. Music alumni are expected to return to the campus for a reunion of Chorale members and a reunion concert.

In celebration of the bicentennial of William Carey's missionary journey to India, a successful tour to "Carey Country" in England was conducted in June. Other events celebrating the bicentennial are planned for the 1992-93 academic year, including lectures Oct. 5-6 by Timothy George, author of the book, *Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey*.

The WCC Student Government Association is hard at work making preparations for the record

number of new and returning students, noted the group's advisor.

"We are looking forward to a very exciting and fun-filled year," said Runnels. "SGA president this year is Traci Powell, and she has the enthusiasm and spirit needed to be a great student leader. She has an outstanding cabinet and council who are willing to give 100%."

A Welcome Back Party will kick off the year. It will be held at Paul B. Johnson State Park and all students, faculty, and staff are invited. Off-campus movies, midnight breakfasts, fall carnival, and Hydromania Day are favorites with students and will be continued in 1992-93. Among new activities planned are the Dive-In Movie/Pool Party, regular bus trips to out-of-town athletic events, athletic kick-off parties, and study breaks. Annual major events planned are Greek Day, the annual crawfish boil, and homecoming week activities.

The WCC Baptist Student Union is anticipating an exciting year, beginning with a variety of activities the opening week of school. The schedule includes: Aug. 21, a Coke and information booth; Aug. 21-22, BSU Freshmen and Transfers' Survival Weekend; Aug. 23, watermelon cut; and Aug. 25, a welcome party.

Compiled by the WCC public relations office.

For 86 years

"The College of Choice"

The following freshmen honor students have chosen William Carey College . . .
All are Trustee Merit Scholars or Presidential Excellence Scholars*

Nigel Black - Pascagoula, MS - Moss Point H.S.

Allison Boleware - Laurel, MS - Laurel H.S.

Jill Boyd - McComb, MS - Petal H.S.

LaTonia Crockett - Jackson, MS - Bailey Magnet H.S.

Kristi Curtis - Lafayette, LA - Acadia H.S.

Rochelle Davis - Sturgis, MS - Sturgis H.S.

Cathy Downey - Brandon, MS - Northwest Rankin H.S.

Stephen Evans - Louisville, MS - Louisville H.S.

Donnie Fazure - Pascagoula, MS - Pascagoula H.S.

Kristie Gilley - Bonifay, FL - Holmes County H.S.

Keeli Granger - Hazelhurst, MS - Union Academy

Grant Guthrie - Hattiesburg, MS - Oak Grove H.S.

Courtney Harwell - Vancleave, MS - Vancleave H.S.

Tracy Hodges - Mountain View, AR - Mountain View H.S.

Mark Homburg - Slidell, LA - Pope John Paul II H.S.

Jennifer Jones - Hattiesburg, MS - North Forrest H.S.

Denise Lewis - Hattiesburg, MS - Oak Grove H.S.

James McCay, Jr. - Hattiesburg, MS - Columbia Academy

Laurie McEachen - Jackson, MS - Wingfield H.S.

Robin McGeehee - Jackson, MS - Forest Hill H.S.

Tracie McLemore - Petal, MS - Petal H.S.

Stephanie Merchant - Bay Springs, MS - Sylva Bay Academy

Sarah Middleton - Laurel, MS - Northeast Jones H.S.

Mark Nicovich - Petal, MS - Petal H.S.

Lee Patrick - Pelahatchie, MS - Pelahatchie Attend. Center

Opal Ann Patterson - Ocean Springs, MS - Gulfport Bible Christian School

Patrice Pickett - Moss Point, MS - Moss Point H.S.

Humberto Pina - Goodrich, TX - Livingston H.S.

Nathaniel Robinson - Union City, TN - Union City H.S.

Daphne Savell - Union, MS - Union H.S.

Jennifer Shirley - Hattiesburg, MS - North Forrest H.S.

Jeffery Smeal - Gautier, MS - Pascagoula H.S.

Amanda Strickland - Hurley, MS - East Central H.S.

Bradley Robert Taylor - Natchez, MS - Forest Hill H.S.

Crystal Temple - Magnolia, MS - South Pike H.S.

Dawn Thomas - Sandy Hook, MS - Dexter H.S.

Darwin Tomlinson - Union City, TN - Union City H.S.

Melissa Ann Wactor - Roxie, MS - Adams County Christian H.S.

Darla Lee Wade - Seminary, MS - Seminary H.S.

Nathan Waller - Pascagoula, MS - Moss Point H.S.

Thomas Webb - Pascagoula, MS - Pascagoula H.S.

Tracy Whitfield - Picayune, MS - Picayune Memorial H.S.

Phylondria Williams - Jackson, MS - Bailey Magnet H.S.

Rebekah Williamson - Lucedale, MS - VMS-Wright

Erica Wise - Columbia, MS - Columbia H.S.

*Criteria for Trustee Merit Scholars: National Merit or Semi-finalist or National Achievement Semi-finalist or composite score of 31 or greater on the ACT

*Criteria for Presidential Excellence Scholars: ACT score of 28 - 30 or high school valedictorian, salutatorian or STAR student

William Carey College

Hattiesburg

Gulfport

New Orleans

For Admissions, Transfer Credit, and Financial Aid Information - Call (601) 582-6103

State Baptists lead at Mississippi River Ministry

By William H. Perkins Jr. and Tim Nicholas

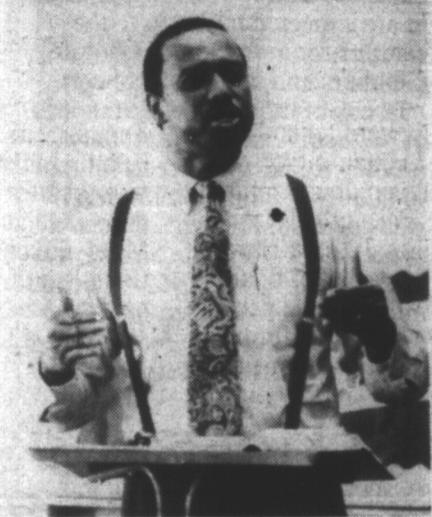
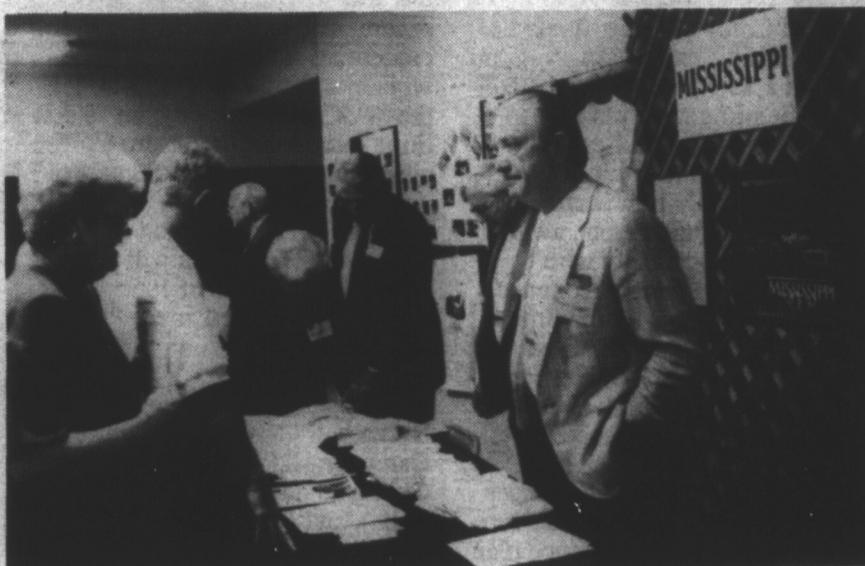
(First of a two-part series)

Mississippi Baptists played a major role in the Mississippi River Ministry Convocation August 7-8 at Eudora Church in Memphis, supplying five workshops, music, and the keynote sermon for over 350 people who came to the conference seeking ways to minister effectively in the poverty-stricken counties of seven states that border the Mississippi River.

The purpose of the Ministry is to "commit Southern Baptists and their resources to provide ministries, evangelization, strengthening of existing churches and starting of new churches in the seven-state region of the lower Mississippi River," according to the convocation program.

Sponsors of the convocation included the state Baptist conventions in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee; the Brotherhood Commission and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; and the Woman's Missionary Union.

Statistics presented at the meeting indicate the dismal conditions found in many parts of the ministry area, which spans 127 counties and parishes in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. Approximately 4.3 million people reside in the area, one of the most



Eddie Jones (left photo) pastor of Victory Church in Greenville, stresses an important point during his presentation on "The Small Church in Ministry" at the Mississippi River Ministry Convocation. The convocation was held Aug. 7-8 at Eudora Church, Memphis. In photo above, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board exhibit is staffed by (from right) Richard Brogan, Neron Smith, and Ray Grissett, all of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Convention Board. The convocation dealt with effective ministry in the seven-state Mississippi River region. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

pluralistic regions in the United States. Only 50% of the residents over 25 years of age have a high school diploma, and one in five people live in poverty. The area has the lowest ratio in the nation of doctors and nurses per 1,000 people, and the infant mortality rate rivals many third-world countries.

In addition, one-third of the families in the ministry area live in substandard housing. Divorce and single-parent families are prevalent, with alcohol and other drug dependencies at "crisis" levels.

Contrasted with the fact that 2375 Southern Baptist churches with 942,000 members exist in the ministry area, organizers see great potential for reaching the unsaved — estimated to be 50% of the total population, according to a study conducted by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The needs that led to the creation of the Mississippi River Ministry have been in existence for many years. The answers to the multitude of problems and needs will not be corrected overnight," said Ray Grissett, director of the MBCB Cooperative Missions department and a member of the ministry steering committee.

"Remember God can make changes and keep them that way. Everyone has a right to know Jesus. If you doubt, remember the resources are in the harvest," he added.

Thomas Tutor, pastor of Oakhurst Church in Clarksdale, provided the keynote sermon on Friday night. Tutor described how he left his Arkansas pastorate to come to Clarksdale because of the strong call he felt to minister to the poor people of that area.

Tutor said that those living in poverty in the ministry region do not do so out of choice but are "in prison just as surely as the people in Fort Pillow," referring to a Tennessee prison in which he had ministered in the past.

Workshops provided by Mississippians included "How to Do Missions With No Money" by Norma Mackey, WMU Director for Wayne Association; "The Chaplain as a Minister of Presence" by Billy J. Jones, Chaplaincy Coordinator for Mississippi Baptist Chaplaincy Association; "Critical Issues in the Mississippi River Ministry Region" by Paul Jones and Beth Holmes of the Christian Action Commission of MBCB; "Cross-Cultural Relation-

ship Building" by Richard Brogan, consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department of MBCB; and "The Small Church in Ministry" by Eddie Jones, pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Greenville.

Kenny Adams, music minister at Mount Zion Church in Independence, led the music program for the convocation.

Mississippi ministry models on display in the exhibit hall of the convocation included Helping Hands by Judy Slayton of Greenwood, which provides housing and labor for the homeless; North Delta Ministry Center by North Delta Association director of missions M. C. Johnson of Clarksdale, which assists people who cannot qualify for welfare; and Myers Foundation by physician Ron Myers of Tchula, which provides health care to indigent people.

State organizations providing exhibits for the convocation included Sunday Care, a children's outreach program conducted by Carlie Hill of the MBCB Evangelism Department; Construction Fellowship headed by J. M. May of Florence, which builds churches and related facilities with volunteer labor; and Baptist Nursing Fellowship by Debbie Smith of Tupelo, which provides medical missions.

Herb Brisbane, black church growth specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, reminded the convocation that the Ministry region has many poor people without Jesus as their Savior.

"If we don't help, who will? Some people never read the Bible, but they read the pages of our lives. We can make a difference; God is looking for ordinary people who can do super things through Him," Brisbane said.

Wilbur Hawkins, former director of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission in Memphis, told the crowd that the divisiveness that fosters much of the poverty in the region is not always ethnic.

"Some are class divisions. In many cases, there is no middle ground — you either have or you have not," Hawkins pointed out.

Persons and organizations who would like more information or want to get involved in the Mississippi River Ministry program can contact Ray Grissett or Richard Brogan in the MBCB Cooperative Missions department at (601) 968-3800.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



A word of advice

"What was the best advice you ever received? What person has most influenced your life?"

How would Joash, king of Judah, have answered? Joash, besides repairing the house of the Lord, "did many wonderful deeds." Though he was not as good as he could have been (2 Kings 12), he was positively a saint in comparison with his grandmother Athaliah and his great-grandparents, Ahab and Jezebel. And he was incredibly nicer than kings who preceded him. His "doing what was right in the sight of the Lord" resulted from his following the advice of the high priest, Jehoiada.

His aunt Jehosheba, wife of Jehoiada, certainly influenced his life. In fact, if she had not dared to risk her own life to save her nephew's, he'd have been murdered like his siblings. Then her hiding him in the temple for six years placed him where he could hear Jehoiada's advice. Tragically, he later listened to the advice of evil men, and his life and doings took a downturn.

"The best advice you ever received?" "Who has influenced you most?" What would I answer?

I have a small "autograph book" I acquired in sixth grade. It is

filled with notes from friends, teachers, family members, pastors.... Today in it I found bits of advice that I now know could hardly be improved upon.

For instance, Mrs. Virgil Gardner, teacher, wrote: "As you travel down the road of life, may you always see the beautiful in things and people, may you always be kind to your fellow man, and may you always put your trust and faith in a living God."

Margaret Hall, teacher, said: "When the Great Scorer comes to count against your name, He counts not that you won or lost, but how you played the game. Keep these words in mind..."

Mrs. Robert Willingham, senior high English teacher: "Discipline yourself. You can get away from everybody else, but you can't get away from yourself, so make yourself just as nice as you possibly can."

Mama: "Always be good and sweet to everyone."

Daddy: "Always remember to go to Sunday School. This will help you live closer to Jesus."

There's a note from L. M. Jones, my first pastor. Though it does not contain advice, I remember well some advice he gave me. As I try to place my finger on a person who influenced me most, next to

my parents, it was probably he.

At age 9, I had publicly professed Jesus as my Savior, during a revival. How happy I was that morning, a little tune sounding over and over within, "I'm saved! I'm saved!" Yet this decision apparently did not immediately make an outward change in me.

One Sunday morning when I was 11 or 12, I walked across the County Line churchyard in my summery green voile dress. Brother Jones called to me, and stopped to talk. He said, "Anne, now that you are a Christian, I know you want to live so others can see that Jesus has made a difference in your life. I've noticed that you sit in back and laugh and talk with your friends during services. You could begin by sitting near the front and being more reverent. I know you'll think of other ways, too. I'll be counting on you."

His words hit home, and my tears flowed. I recognized that his advice was good, and I resolved to try hard to follow it. I remember that day as a definite turning point in my life.

I am grateful that he cared — and dared — enough to challenge me. If I had a similar chance to help some youth, what advice would I offer? All of the above.

Suzanne Carlin, 27, dies

Suzanne Carlin, 27, of Oxford, died Aug. 7 of a cerebral hemorrhage while visiting in-laws in Hattiesburg. Funeral services were held Aug. 8 in Hattiesburg with burial in Highland Cemetery.

She was a graduate of William Carey



Carlin

Staff changes

Harry L. Cole, pastor of First Church, Satartia, for 2 1/2 years has resigned effective Aug. 30.

Cole has an associate degree from Covington Theological Seminary. He is available for full-time pastor, pulpit supply or interim and can be reached at P.O. Box 77, Satartia, MS 39162, phone 746-9627. After Aug. 30, he can be reached at Rt. 3, Box 89,

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Mark R. Williams, a native of Arkansas, began his work as minister of activities at First Church, Yazoo City, on June 16. He is a graduate of Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Seminary. Clifton Perkins is serving as interim pastor.



First Church, Pascagoula, called Stan Loyd as minister of music effective Aug. 2. A native of Shreveport, La., he received his education at Northwestern State University and New Orleans Seminary. Loyd has published choral and handbell music, and arranged orchestral music. Rex Yancey is pastor.



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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Just for the Record



Pictured above are the GAs who were recently recognized at Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, for completing and working on missions adventures. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Abbie Pilkington, Natasha Fleming, Maegan Smith, Carrie Tilley, Tamara Havard, Robin Eubanks; second row, Ashley Mallette, Charlise Bufkin, Krissy Hilbun, Vicki Tillman, Deanna Mixon, Cori Walters; third row, Amber Brown, Jennifer Eubanks, Melonie Harrison, Patty McDowell, Jessica

Sellars, Katie Rogers, Kathryn Wallace; fourth row, Robin Drinkard, Valarie Hilbun, Rebecca Wilson; fifth row, Mandy Tilley, Miranda Mizelle, Ashley Pilkington, Julie Dunlap, Missy Eubanks and Amanda Cochran. Missy Eubanks and Anna Cochran finished all levels of GA mission adventures work and will be in Acteens next church year. Patricia Croom is GA director; Roy T. Myers is pastor.

Names in the news

Diane Parker has been appointed assistant controller at William Carey College. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, she has been employed by the Bank of Mississippi. She and her husband, Freeman Parker, are members of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will speak Aug. 23 during the morning worship service at First Church, Yazoo City. Parks, who retires Oct. 31 from his current position, has served through Southern Baptists' foreign missions enterprise for 38 years.



Along with the 11 a.m. worship service, Parks also will speak during the church's Sunday School hour to a combined adult class.

Dale Roberts was ordained to the gospel ministry on July 12 by First Church, Lyman, where he serves as minister of youth.



George Abrams was presented a plaque by the Gulf Coast Association upon his retirement as director of the Seamen's Center from 1985-1992. A reception was held in his honor.



Former MBCB counsel Davis dies at 52

Charles Davis, 52, former attorney for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Baptist Foundation for more than 20 years, died in a plane crash in Arkansas Aug. 5. Davis' association with MBCB and Baptist Foundation began in 1968. He had continued to work on special projects of the Baptist Foundation until the time of his death.

A native of Canton, Davis graduated from the University of Mississippi and received the juris doctor degree from the University law school. He was a founder of the Thomas, Price, Alston, Jones & Davis law firm in Jackson and was involved in community, civic, and legal associations.

Funeral services were held Aug. 10 at 9 a.m. at Northminster Church, Jackson.

CREDIT

From page 3

plans Jan. 1, 1993. A \$1,000 deductible plan will have rates 30% less than the comprehensive plans and a \$2,500 deductible plan will have rates 40% less than the comprehensive rate. Benefits will also be scaled back.

Joel Mathis, senior vice president for insurance administration said, "These two plans.... have much lower rates, large deductibles, but still help prevent a financial catastrophe in event of a very major medical incident."

Miller is senior vice president of public relations.

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I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. — Stephen Grellet

Leads off to H.A. Photo Folio

of 1936. When on board the ship

Revival dates

Pilgrims Rest, Batesville: Aug. 16-21; Steve Hardin, First, Greenview, Ill., evangelist; Dot Heath, Pilgrims Rest, music; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner served at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; George D. Credille, pastor.

Harmony, Louisville: Aug. 16-21; Danny Lanier, Meridian, evangelist; C. C. Burns, pastor, Knights Valley, Vossburg, music; Sunday, 11 and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Lundy, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Rankin): Aug. 16-21; David Michel, director, Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Richard and Pam Sparks, Eastside, Pearl, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner served at 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri.,

7:30 p.m.; Tommy R. Bufkin, pastor.

Ebenezer, Senatobia: Aug. 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7:30 nightly; Randy Mobley, evangelist.

Sunrise, Carthage: Aug. 16-21; Tim Smith, First, Glendale, evangelist; Mark Jones, Trinity, music; H. Frank Smith, pastor.

First, Boyle: Aug. 16-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Larry Braswell, evangelist; Harold Smith, music; Joe Anderson, pastor.

Fellowship, Bellefontaine: Aug. 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Pernenter, Mt. Vernon, Columbus, evangelist; John Herring, First, Eupora, music; Allen Simpson, pastor.

Homecomings

Calvary, Silver Creek: Aug. 16; 11 a.m.; Harold Wilson, Prentiss, guest speaker; dinner on grounds; 1:30 p.m. music concert by Dunn Walker and Roy Daughdrill; Mike Sutton, pastor.

Bayou View, Gulfport: Aug. 16; 35th anniversary; R. Bryant Barnes, College Place, Monroe, La., guest speaker; 10:45 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon concert by the Bible Tones Quartet; Gary

McCormick, pastor.

New Haven, Terry: Aug. 16; 50th anniversary; 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; J. W. Brister, director of missions, Hinds-Madison Association, guest speaker.

Bethany (Jasper): Aug. 16; Walter Johnson, Laurel, former pastor, speaker; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; 1:15 p.m. service; Eddie M. Brady, pastor.

Postal-rate future uncertain for non-profit publications

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Non-profit mailers — including most Baptist newspapers — may have dodged a postage-rate bullet for next year, but they face a perilous future, according to a spokesman for the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers.

Neal Denton, executive director of the organization, said action by the Senate Appropriations Committee may have rendered only temporary relief to an annual problem.

"The one-year reprieve leaves us in a terrible position for next year," Denton said.

The Senate committee approved July 31 a postal bill (H.R. 5488) that would appropriate only \$200 million of the \$482 million needed for the non-profit mail subsidy, known as revenue foregone, to maintain current rates.

Revenue foregone reimburses the Postal Service for the non-

profit mailers' share of overhead expenses. Non-profit rates reflect only the cost of handling that class of mail.

The \$282 million shortfall would have meant a 30% to 35% rate increase in fiscal 1993 but the committee also approved a one-year measure that would prevent the Postal Service from raising non-profit postal rates.

The Senate measure mirrors the bill approved July 1 by the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill may come before the full Senate in early August.

While non-profit mailers may be relieved that rates will not increase in the coming year, they were searching for a permanent solution to the annual problem, Denton said. If Congress approves the measure as it is, those publications face a "bloody battle" for sustaining current rates beyond 1993, he added.

there," Powell said. "We have less than 24,000 of them in the plan. We need commitment, conviction, and cooperation. This is a family problem that is part of a national crisis. We can't fix the whole nation's medical-care crisis but we can do something about our part. This plan can be successful. It's up to the churches and state conventions."

Miller is senior vice president of public relations.

RATES

From page 3

and to the states, 'This is not just an Annuity Board problem; this is your problem.' The Southern Baptist Convention gave us the assignment of offering a medical plan. We cannot hire 500 agents to sell it.

"There may be 75,000 to 100,000 eligible families out

Children's Village receives largest VBS offering

Society Hill Church, Jeff Davis Association, recently held its Vacation Bible School. A contest between the boys and girls enrolled challenged each group to bring the most money by weight — boys edged out girls by six pounds. The contest netted a record offering to the Baptist Children's Village of \$1,000, according to Ronny Robinson, executive director, Children's Village.

There were seven professions of faith, 94 enrolled. Paul Blange is pastor.

CLARKE

From page 2

there were times when I knew something was not being done properly and did not speak up. But maybe one of these days God will overrule these mistakes and make them turn out for the good. I don't know why he has let this series of disasters happen to our beloved Clarke College — an institution that sought to fulfill its God-given mission and whose powerful influence for Christian missions still reaches around the globe. Perhaps it's like Joseph's experiences in Egypt. When the impossible comes to pass, there will be no question as to who did it!

Compere is president emeritus, Clarke College.

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Stewardship of Scriptures



By Margaret H. Rogers.
2 Timothy 2:1-19

Soon after the writing of 1 Timothy and Titus, Paul was imprisoned again and was eventually executed. During this second Roman imprisonment Paul wrote a second letter to Timothy. The young in faith should follow the example of Timothy as he sought to imitate Paul. Parents should be reminded of the profound effect a Christian home can have on family members from the account of how a faithful mother and grandmother influenced young Timothy. The impact on his life helped also to change the world around him. Paul was facing death, but he was not dying of a disease in a hospital with loved ones near. He was very much alive but his condition was terminal. Convicted as a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, he lay in a cold Roman prison, cut off from the world, with just a visitor or two and his writing materials. Paul knew that soon he would be executed (2 Timothy 4:6) and so he wrote his final thoughts to his "son" Timothy, passing to him his torch of leadership. He was reminding him of what was truly important and encouraging him in the faith. Imagine how Timothy must have read and re-read this last message from his mentor, the great missionary apostle, Paul.

Because of the situation and the recipient, this is the most intimate and moving of Paul's letters and his last. Paul reminded Timothy to prepare others to follow in the teaching of God's word, to be disciplined and ready to suffer hardship like a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. He challenged Timothy to keep his eyes and mind focused on Christ, to hold to sound doctrine, reject error, and know the word.

Responsibility to share the Word (vv. 1-2). Paul reminded Timothy of the resources available, of the strength Christ provides. If the church would consistently follow Paul's advice about passing on the truth of God's word to trustworthy men, numerous results would follow. The work of Christians is not done until faithful believers are telling others the Good News.

Worthy goals for Timothy (vv. 3-7). Paul made Timothy aware that as he preached, taught, and trained, he would face hardships. He must be disciplined as soldiers, athletes, and farmers who are willing to sacrifice to achieve results. Soldiers give up worldly security and endure rigorous discipline; athletes train hard and follow the rules; and farmers consistently and methodically till the soil. Each keeps going in spite of suffering because of the thought of victory, the vision of winning, and the hope of a bountiful harvest. All hardships are worthwhile when one can see the impact God's Word has on lives, see others won to Christ, and see God glorified.

If believers would study God's Word diligently, rightly interpret it as the Holy Spirit reveals, and share it with others, a greater reverence for the Bible would result. The requirements of discipline and consistency which Paul pointed out to Timothy are the same for Christians today.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.



Bible Book

The decline, fall of Israel



By David Raddin
2 Kings 14:23-24; 17:6-9a, 18-23

God is gracious to offer forgiveness to a sinful world. The people of Israel found that God's judgement comes to those who refuse to repent. The Lord gives us direction and the invitation to come to him, confess our sins, and live the full, abundant, and everlasting life possible only in Christ.

Evaluation of the reign of Jeroboam II (14:23-24). Jeroboam II reigned 41 years over Israel. As with his predecessors, Jeroboam's reign was characterized with the words, "He did evil in the sight of the Lord...." Under his regime, though, several accomplishments were made. Israel's borders were restored to where they were in the great days of David and Solomon. The Lord rescued Israel from her oppressors. God's people were given every chance to repent.

What a privilege and a responsibility to be chosen by God for a position of leadership among his people. Some, like Jeroboam, misuse their position. In a world that so much needs God's love shown through his people, those that he chooses to lead have the opportunity to make a difference by living an example of faithfulness to the Lord.

Idolatry brings captivity (17:6-9a). The prophets, Amos and Hosea, had been preaching throughout Israel that God would bring judgement because of the evil in the nation. After Jeroboam II, his son reigned. He was the last ruler in the house of Jehu. When Jehu's dynasty fell, Israel's fall to the Assyrians was to be only three decades away.

Hoshea became king by means of a bloody coup. Even though Hoshea did evil he was recorded as being better than those before him. Hoshea went to war with Assyria. The invading Assyrians went through the cities of Israel, and, after three years, captured the capital, Samaria. Thousands of Israelites were deported to Assyria. With the fall of Samaria came the fall of the nation Israel (722-721 B.C.).

"All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God.... They worshiped other gods and followed the practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before them...." (vv. 7-8). Israel fell because the people rejected Yahweh to follow other gods. Their worship of idols led to their end and captivity.

Anything or anyone we worship other than God is an idol. To worship something or someone is to give that thing or person priority over God. What or who is first with you? Remember the example of Israel. Repent while you can and give God first place.

God's judgement of Israel for continuing in sin (17:18-23). Israel refused to turn from their sin. "So the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence" (v. 18). The people of Israel were removed from their land and given into the hands of invaders. They had followed Jeroboam as he led them away from the Lord.

The Lord calls us to turn from our sin and follow him. Refusing to follow God means losing the life he wants for us. Following him means living the abundant life that is ours as we are becoming the persons he wants us to be.

Following him means that we not only find God's destination for our lives but also his direction as we go. The story of the decline and fall of Israel is a picture of those who refuse God's direction and end up apart from the destination he wants for them. Only those who follow the Lord's direction for finding eternal life in Jesus will come to know the destination of heaven and eternity with him.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Summit.

Life and Work

Show kindness to others



By Milton Burd
2 Samuel 19:25-29, 31-33, 38

Kindness seems like such a pleasant and gentle word, but it is a word of action. All of us have been recipients of kindness. There are persons who have made special efforts to befriend us or to help us in some way, and hopefully we have also been on the giving end of kindness. Paul mentions kindness as a part of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. Showing kindness should be an important activity in the life of a Christian. The lesson for this week is about showing kindness to others. Let's look at David's experience in 2 Samuel 19.

David's confrontation of Mephibosheth (vv. 25-28). David experienced a rebellion led by his son Absalom in Chapters 15-18. During his escape from Jerusalem, he met Ziba (the servant of Mephibosheth) who befriended him with gifts. He also told David that Mephibosheth had sided with Absalom. David rewarded Ziba with all the land that he had given to Mephibosheth.

After the rebellion failed, Mephibosheth traveled from Jerusalem to meet David. David only knew what Ziba had told him; so he asked Mephibosheth why he did not leave Jerusalem with him. Mephibosheth gave two reasons: he was lame and could not saddle his donkey, and Ziba had deceived him. He told David that Ziba had been lying and had slandered his name. He claimed that he had been loyal to David since the time that he had shown kindness to him. He deserved nothing more and was at the mercy of David.

David's decision about Mephibosheth (v. 29). David had a decision to make. Did he believe Ziba or Mephibosheth? He decided to give each man the benefit of the doubt. He declared that each of them would divide the land. He demonstrated kindness to both of them.

Barzillai's loyalty to David (vv. 31-32). Barzillai was one who was also generous and kind to David (2 Samuel 17). He was among those who brought provisions to David. Barzillai was from Gilead, east of the Jordan. This was a stronghold of Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son. So it was to David's surprise that he was so kindly received. Barzillai gave shelter and support to David during the rebellion with Absalom. His support was very generous. He was not only wealthy, but he was one of the most important and influential men in all of Gilead.

Wealth, position, or social standing are not prerequisites for extending kindness. As Christians, we can be kind through attitude, word, and deed. I have received kindness from persons who had very little in material goods or wealth, yet they kindly shared what they had.

David's offer to Barzillai (v. 33). David was loyal and kind to those who supported him. Just as he always remembered that God was the source of his blessings, he remembered the kindnesses shown to him. As a result of Barzillai's kindness, David invited him to accompany him back to Jerusalem. David wanted to reciprocate the kindness of Barzillai. But Barzillai graciously declined the king's offer, citing his advanced age. Verse 32 states that he was very old. He told David that he was past his prime and wanted to die at home.

As Christians, we should reciprocate the kindness of others, but we should also show kindness to those who are strangers and to those who cannot return kindness to us. This is our challenge.

David's promise to Barzillai (v. 38). Barzillai offered Kimham (perhaps his son) to go in his place. David responded and promised to do for him what he had offered to Barzillai. David continued that loyalty to Barzillai and his sons for years to come. Expressing kindness is a continual process. It becomes a part of our everyday lifestyle because it is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Use that gift in your life by expressing kindness to others. It makes life more meaningful for others and for yourself.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

capsules

PRAY FOR RAIN, RELIEF IN AFRICA, FOREIGN MISSION OFFICIALS URGE: RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Foreign Mission Board is asking Southern Baptists to pray for millions of Africans affected by war and drought. "Several million people are suffering and many are dying for lack of food. The sight of people hungry and thirsty... having no hope, that's what drives me to request prayer," explained Bill Bullington, the board's vice president for Africa. This century's worst drought in southern Africa has wiped out between 50 and 90% of the region's cereal crops. By September some 30 million people in the region will need outside food assistance to survive, according to the U.S. Committee for Refugees, a private research organization in Washington, D.C.

MISSIONARIES RETURN TO SIERRA LEONE: FREETOWN, Sierra Leone—Seven Southern Baptist missionary families who evacuated Sierra Leone in May because of a military coup returned in July. Skirmishes continue in the small west African country between troops loyal to the new government and small bands of rebels. But the missionaries believe it is safe to resume their work. However, the missionaries remain concerned about new government restrictions on their two-way radios, often their only means of communication. Government officials have allowed use of set-frequency radios. But the missionaries are negotiating for renewed use of their ham radios.

REPORT: CHINA HOLDS 104 CHRISTIAN PRISONERS: WASHINGTON, D.C.—China is holding 104 Christian believers in prison, under house arrest or in other types of restriction because of their faith, charged the Puebla Institute, a Roman Catholic human rights group. The Chinese detainees include 72 Catholic leaders and 32 Protestants, according to a Puebla report that listed the prisoners by name. The report also documents instances of mass arrest, torture, brainwashing, detention without trial and harsh sentences imposed on believers, as well as the closing of churches and confiscation of Bibles, said EP News Service.

CUBA CONSTITUTION APPROVES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: HAVANA, Cuba—The National Assembly of Cuba voted constitutional changes July 10 that will allow freedom of religion for the first time since the 1959 Cuban revolution, claimed Cuba's official news agency. The constitutional amendment declares "the state recognizes, respects and guarantees the freedom of religion." The government has increased contacts with religious groups recently and church activities have expanded in the communist nation. Latin American leaders have been pressuring Cuban leader Fidel Castro to allow more democratic freedoms, but the news agency insisted the constitutional changes "are not dictated by external pressure, but... by the search for the perfection of our own democracy and the need to adapt" to a different world.

BARBARA BUSH PAYS A VISIT TO BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (ABP)—First Lady Barbara Bush came to the Florida Baptist Children's Home here July 30 with a message of hope and possibilities. "You can be anything you want, if you put your mind to it," she told almost two dozen youngsters. Following a story-reading time, Bush asked the children what they wanted to be when they grew up. The boys and girls eagerly called out their dreams—a pediatrician, an animal trainer, a fireman, an electrical engineer, a veterinarian, a football player, even president of the United States. The First Lady praised the choice and encouraged the children to go for it.

Banners in worship point people to God

GLORIETA, N.M.—Making banners for a worship service is not an arts and crafts activity but an avenue to "awaken people to the reality of who God is," the coordinator of the banner ministry at Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., said.

Carolyn Higginbotham, who since 1986 has directed the banner ministry in which 100 banners highlighting names for God in the Bible have been researched and created, led a conference on banners in the worship service during the Church Music Leadership Conference July 11-17 at Glorieta Conference Center.

At Bellevue, the banners are used in large numbers in major productions, but they also are used in smaller numbers to support the theme of a worship service. Nine women are involved in the biblical research, design and construction of

the banners. One hundred men have been enlisted as banner bearers.

After a name of God is chosen, such as lamb of God, shepherd, man of sorrows or Emmanuel, the designer does careful biblical research into the name. Every detail of the banner is planned to communicate a biblical truth.

"We do not fill up our banners with 'stuff' just to make them pretty," she said. "Everything has a meaning."

Noting they have found that banners make the greatest impact on children, she said, "We don't want anything on these banners that would be a stumbling block to anybody."

"Banners are a statement about God rooted in the truth of his word. We have pledged our banners will show the mighty name of God," Higginbotham continued.

Baptists compete for souls at Olympics in Barcelona

By Mike Creswell

BARCELONA, Spain (BP)—The world watched the Summer Olympics as athletes grunted, grimaced, and sweated their way to victory—or defeat.

But behind the scenes, scores of Baptists competed in a spiritual battle for souls. These spiritual athletes smiled more than the sports stars but also did their share of grunting and sweating as they labored amid Spain's soaring summer temperatures.

For the "Reach Out '92" effort, an international team of nearly 100 Baptists ministered during the Olympics. The team included 10 Southern Baptist missionaries, about 30 Baptist Student Union workers from the United States, two dozen student volunteers from the United Kingdom, 25 Spanish workers, and 10 from other European countries.

They were not alone. As many as 8,000 Christian workers from other denominations and church-related organizations came to Barcelona for the Olympics, estimated Southern Baptist missionary Fred Dallas of Fort Bragg, N.C., who coordinated Baptist efforts.

Despite some overlap and occasional tensions, the general effort went smoothly. Most ministries were carried out in coordination

with the council that represents the relatively few evangelical churches in Catalonia province.

Track and field great Carl Lewis was the big draw in a special program Aug. 4 at the Palace of Music in Barcelona. More than 1,500 people packed the recital hall as Lewis and other star athletes told of their faith in Christ.

Because Baptists are little-known in Spain, local pastors appreciated the extra "muscle" to help introduce them and boost their image. At the Palace of Music program, flashbulbs fired and applause burst out as Lewis took the stage with Olympian Leroy Burrell and others.

Active in Christian outreach since 1981, Lewis told the crowd the Lord is with him when he wins but also when he loses. When he loses, "That's when the Lord comes to me and says everything is going to be all right," he said.

Olympian Leroy Burrell also spoke of his faith in Christ. He has won six gold medals in running and held three world records going into the 1992 Olympics. When people ask him if he is OK, "I say yes, because I'm a Christian!"

Baptist students packed backpacks with lunch and evangelistic materials and pounded Barcelona's

streets all day to spread their faith. Some performed music, drama, mime or sports to get an audience for their Christian testimonies.

Baptist volunteers distributed thousands of colorful booklets explaining the gospel. One, called "Winning in Life," featured sports photographs to capitalize on the Olympics. It was jointly produced in 15 languages by the United Bible Societies and the Foreign Mission Board. Offerings taken this summer by students at centrifuge programs sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board helped underwrite production costs.

Similarly, while Baptists reached out to Olympic athletes and visitors, they concentrated most efforts on boosting local churches. Only two Baptist congregations worship in Barcelona, a city of some 5 million people.

Only about two dozen evangelical churches of any kind exist in the sprawling metropolis; most are small. The situation mirrors Spain in general. Only about 70,000 of Spain's 40 million people are evangelical Christians. And while Spain is known as a Catholic country, studies by the Roman Catholic Church show only about 17% of Spaniards have any involvement with the church, said Robert Velt Chisbert. He is pastor of Bona Nova Baptist Church in Barcelona and president of the Evangelical Baptist Union of Spain.

"Spain is one of the biggest mission fields in the world," Velt Chisbert said.

In one service 19 people prayed to receive Christ as Savior; 12 actually walked forward to register their decisions. "Walking the aisle" is common in the United States and elsewhere, but is considered unusual in Spain. "This is a miracle," Pastor Yasquez said.

By signing up people contacted for Bible studies, the church hopes to preserve more decisions.

Creswell writes for FMB.



OLD AND NEW—Southern Baptist missionary Dan Panter of Mississippi sits under the old communist hammer and sickle at a subway station in Minsk, Belarus. Symbols of communism remain in the former Soviet republic, but the political power of the ideology that attempted to destroy the Christian faith has crumbled. Panter and his wife, Libby, are Southern Baptists' first missionaries in Belarus. See related story on page 1. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

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Baptist Record

August 13, 1992

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